

197-199 EAST MAIN STREET

This building, probably built around 1855, set the rhythm of solid and void that its neighbor to the east, no. 201, continues so well. This building was built originally as two shops, each with its separate entrance and large plate glass display windows, with flats above.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

197-199 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

Carroll

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Joseph L. Mathias

Telephone #: 848-9511

STREET &amp; NUMBER

32 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21157**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 134

Folio #: 478

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

There are two old two-story commercial structures on the north side of Westminster's East Main Street, near and on its intersection with Court Street, that are nearly united in time, style, and use, but which possess certain features which act to separate the two. These distinguishing features are strong enough to warrant each building's having its own report.

With that in mind, nos. 197-99 might be dealt with first, as this (it is one building) is probably the older of the two and set the pattern for decoration and window placement. The eaves of its flat roof are enlivened by a two-part modillion entablature supported by six scroll brackets. The brackets have an interesting cloven-hoof pattern applique at their base; the bases are joined by a narrow wooden string course. Five two-over-two double-hung sash windows are located directly below each bracket-created space. Windows have wooden sills and three course gauged flat arches. There is a central ground floor double door sheltered by a green and white shed roofed aluminum awning. Each door has a large glass pane in its upper half, with an enriched panel below. Both doors are approached by two granite steps and are topped by a large glass transom which is, in turn, topped by a three course gauged flat arch. These doors led, and still lead, to second floor apartments.

The shops, the reasons for the building's existence, are defined by window and door arrangement to the east and west of the door. Old photographs exist showing the original appearance of these storefronts; although changed today, they still possess a mercantile charm and flavor. Each section is set off by a smaller scale version of the main bracketed cornice (less applique and string course), with pilasters at the ends. The eastern door - window - cornice arrangement is closer to original appearance - its door is a single large pane beneath a six-light transom, the door is slightly diagonally recessed. To the west is a large (8'x 10') window of many panes above a low panelled base. The western sections wall has a twelve-glass panel door with a pair of 6/1 three course arched windows to its west. The entire space here, within the pilaster - pavement - cornice boundaries, has recently had its brick re-laid. (Presumably it was then that the former large window was removed.)

Brick is also the covering of the entire wall, and it is uniformly laid in stretcher bond, except for a single row of headers above and below the windows. The entire facade - brick, cornices, window trim, doors - is painted a pale green.

The east and west walls are shared with neighboring buildings, but the north facade is fully exposed. That is, it would be fully exposed but for a jungle of rusted tin shacks, fences, dogs, dead trees and dying cars. What can be glimpsed of the building, through this rusted wasteland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

## SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1855

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As it was doubtless intended to, 197-99 East Main Street magnificently continues the rhythm begun by 201 East Main (its present pale green color, however, makes it a bit less effective as a continuer of 201's plain brick than it might otherwise be). Doubtless contemporaneous - these were owned - after 1852 - by the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank; John Smith and Jacob Reese, who owned no. 201 at this time, were members of the Bank's board. The Bank got the land from Joshua Smith - also a prominent Bank official - by Carroll County deed 13/437, dated April 24, 1852, and kept it until December 30, 1913, when it was sold to John Poisel (Poisel got the 41' x 198' section that contains 197-99; the rest of the Bank's 3/4 acre parcel had been sold off earlier). The present owner, Joseph L. Mathias, took title by deed 134/478, on September 10, 1919.

Besides helping to further the work of no. 201 in defining the corner of Main and Court Streets, no. 197 has its own role - that of acting as a visual terminus and focus for travellers - by foot or car - on Addlesperger Alley, which enters Main Street from the south directly across from 197. The alley begins on a slight rise, dipping to Main Street only enough to allow the walker to play perspective games with himself: the alley's incline is exactly the right pitch to make it seem as if 197 bolts up as one gets closer to Main Street, as if to say "Halt"; what one halts for is the imminent visual arrival of the City's two most important streets. So, in effect, what happens is that one goes down the alley, is suddenly halted by 197, slows down to approach Main Street with one's eyes on 197, then gets to the street and follows the brick and glass rhythms of 197-99-201 down the street and around the corner to the Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being the easterly half of lot 48 of the Town of New London,  
about 40' west of the intersection of Main and Court Streets in Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

November, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# 7

CARR-365

is, below a flat roofline, unaccented but for a small furnace flue, a facade divided by a peeling second-story porch. The second floor of the building has five bays spaced WWDWD - windows have 2/2 panes, doors are glass and aluminum storm, all have 3 course flat gauged arches. Below the porch, on the ground floor, the eastern section is covered by a grey-painted board and batten storage shed; to its west are bays arranged DWD, which resemble their counterparts on the second floor.

44 0/0



CARR ~~197~~ 365

197-99 E. Main St. Westminster

S. Juade

C. Weeth : 1/72

B-34





CARR 365, 366

197-99-201 E. Main st.

Westminster

S. Jacobs b. Addlespersen alley

C. Weech 12/76



CARR 365, 366

197-199-201 E. Main St  
Westminster

N. Jencades

C. Weeks 12/76